

Serial No.: 10/603,408
Docket No.: 60655.1000

REMARKS

Applicant hereby replies to the Office Action mailed on June 7, 2005 within two months. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests an Advisory Action, if necessary. Applicant adds new claim 11. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments or the new claim. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that claim 8 contains subject matter which is not described in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The specification clearly teaches that, once created, an interface file can be saved and later used to translate data from a first format to a second format, wherein the data may be received and processed by a particular configuration of accounting software. As stated in, for example, paragraph 57, "In one embodiment, after completing the above information, the user may be able to save the interface file (also known as an Interface File Definition) (step 406). Once the Interface File Definition is saved, it may be selected by later users to interface with their particular accounting software".

Dependent claim 8 simply recites that the translating step of claim 1 may be subsequently used to translate data for a second source. To expedite prosecution, Claim 1 has been amended to include the step of saving the translation file to allow it to be used again. The saved translation file can subsequently be used to translate data to a second source, as recited in dependent claim 8.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner next rejects claims 1-6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Coleman, U.S. Patent 5,708,828 ("Coleman"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Coleman discloses a hardware independent conversion engine that converts data from a first database to a platform neutral data type, and then converts the platform neutral data type to a format suitable to a second database. A user interacting with the Coleman system through a user interface enters logical associations between a first database table and a second disparate

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database table. The user next maps individual fields from the first table to fields of the second table.

Coleman is limited to a five-step process for converting data from a first source to a format suitable for a second source. According to Coleman:

"The [data conversion language engine] DCLE of the present invention converts data from any number of different types or formats from any of various platforms to a single common data standard having a pre-defined generic data type, and the data is then converted from this generic type to a new desired format or type" (column 2, lines 48-53).

Coleman discloses a "generic data type" which is a required mid-step to perform the translation of data from a first format to a second format. Further, Coleman discloses an input data file and an output data file (column 3, lines 24-41). The Coleman system requires a user to first create the input data file that comprises a map of an input source to define how the DCLE engine should read data from the source. The user then creates an output data file to define the mapping of the destination. The DCLE engine then; (1) reads the input data file, (2) collects data from the source in accordance with the input data file, (3) converts the data into a pre-defined generic format, (4) reads the output data file, and finally (5) converts the generically-formatted data in accordance with the output data file.

Coleman cites several reasons for including the intermediary step of formatting data from a first data repository to a pre-defined generic format. However, those skilled in the art would appreciate that simplified processes which include as few steps as possible are preferable for a number of reasons including, for example, reducing processing time and reducing the lines of programming code, which reduces error probability and is easier to maintain. While the five-step formatting process as disclosed by Coleman may be advantageous under certain circumstances, it would not prove to be the most efficient when there is a need to simply format data from a source in accordance with the requirements of a destination. As such, Coleman does not disclose or suggest at least "translating, via said host computer, using only a single translation of said data from said first source according to said definitions contained in said interface file," as recited by independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

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Claims 2-10 depend from independent claim 1, therefore dependent claims 2-10 are differentiated from the cited reference for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

New claim 11 also depends from independent claim 1, therefore dependent claim 11 is differentiated from the cited reference for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of its own respective features.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2814. Applicant invites the Office to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

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